Publishing in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*

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The following relationship exists related to this presentation:

Dr. Koretzky is a Deputy Editor of the Journal of Clinical Investigation and receives a stipend for his efforts for the journal

Scope of the *JCI*

- The *JCI* is a general-interest biomedical journal with a broad readership. The *JCI* is the publication of the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI) and has been published continuously since 1924.
- The *JCI* publishes original articles pertaining to the genetic, molecular, cellular, or physiological basis of human biology and disease.
- Impact factor (2010): 14.15
- **Number of articles related to rheumatology (immunology) submitted from October 2010-October 2011: 837**

Article Types

Regular manuscripts describe substantial new mechanistic insights into biology and disease.

•Endogenous collagen peptide activation of CD1d-restricted NKT cells ameliorates tissue-specific inflammation in mice
•Repeated TLR9 stimulation results in macrophage activation syndrome-like disease in mice
•Plasma carboxypeptidase B downregulates inflammatory responses in autoimmune arthritis

Article Types

Technical Advances report new and important research tools and techniques that could have broad impact and optimally also include application of the technique to a specific question relevant to understanding or treating a disease.

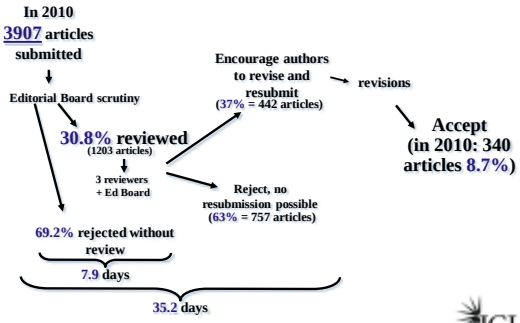
•A high-throughput single-cell analysis of human CD8+ T cell functions reveals discordance for cytokine secretion and cytolysis
•Generating mouse models of degenerative diseases using Cre/lox-mediated in vivo mosaic cell ablation
•Generation of hyaline cartilaginous tissue from mouse adult dermal fibroblast culture by defined factors

Article Types

Brief Reports are discrete, highly significant findings reported in a shorter format.

•A leaky mutation in CD3D differentially affects αβ and γδ T cells and leads to a Tαβ–Tγδ+B+NK+ human SCID
•Prevention of murine autoimmune diabetes by CCL22-mediated Treg recruitment to the pancreatic islets

How the *JCI* works



JCI Work Flow
What Happens to Your Submission?

All papers are evaluated by an Associate Editor, Deputy Editor or Editor in Chief

Possible Decisions:

Send out for review

1) Referees selected by handling Editor
2) Authors can exclude up to 2 referees
3) Editors do pay attention to suggested referees, but not entirely

Reject

All rejects must be approved by a Supervisory Editor (one of the Deputy Editors or Editor in Chief)

We aim for quick turn around

Peer Review

Option to suggest as well as exclude potential referees

Provide contact information for at least 5 potential referees

Don't exclude more than 2-3 people: you will appear paranoid

How to phrase such requests:

"Due to a long-standing conflict of interest, we request that Dr. X be excluded from reviewing this manuscript"

"As the group led by Dr. Y. is a competitor in this area of research, we ask that individuals from this group be excluded from reviewing this manuscript"

How NOT to phrase such requests:

JCI Work Flow
Why do we Editorially Reject Papers?

1) Appropriateness of submissions
   Some submissions are not within the scope of the journal
2) Volume of submissions
   There are just too many submissions for us to obtain high quality reviews on all, thus it is critical to "triage" to ensure those papers that are reviewed are reviewed well
3) Fairness to authors
   There are many submissions that we know will not fare well in the review process
   Goal is to save time for and not to "lead on" authors

JCI Work Flow
What Happens When the Reviews are Returned?

Handling Editor makes a recommendation

1) Reject without invitation to resubmit (our parlance, "reject no hope")
   Must be approved by the supervisory Editor
2) Reject, but with invitation to resubmit a new paper subject to review by new referees (our parlance, "reject no hope, but with de novo")
3) Reject with invitation to resubmit a revised paper
4) Acceptable pending revision
5) Accept
   2, 3, 4, and 5 requires that the paper be discussed at editorial board meeting

JCI Work Flow
The Editorial Board Meetings

The JCI Board meets face to face weekly. If an Editor cannot attend, he/she leaves notes and discusses papers to be evaluated with one of the Deputy Editors or Editor in Chief

All Reject with Hope, Reject with Hope but de novo, Accept with Revision, and Accept papers are presented to the Board by the handling Editor and are discussed

Decisions are reached through consensus. Most often, outcome suggested by handling Editor is supported, but papers may have different outcomes based on the discussion

JCI Work Flow
Communication with the Authors

Once consensus is reached at the Board meeting, decision letters are drafted

If reviews are inconsistent or if there are new issues raised by the Board, letters are customized that, hopefully, give clear advice to the authors

Authors are not encouraged to, but often write back to the journal

My advice is before writing, take a deep breath (and maybe wait a day or two??)

We consider all correspondences and occasionally (but only occasionally) decisions are reversed

A Few Suggestions

Don't inquire about the status daily

Very few papers are accepted upon initial submission

Don't be discouraged – your most famous colleagues get rejection letters

Don't take a rejection letter personally

Determine if you can revise and resubmit

If you choose to submit elsewhere:

Carefully consider your 2nd choice. Remember to change your cover letter

Recognize and fix major flaws before submitting to another journal

If you Choose to Appeal the Decision

What helps?

Wait 24 hours.

Be professional and polite, even if it hurts and you disagree

Don't guess at referee identity- you are usually wrong

Offer to add new data (not just editorial changes)

Stress that you are willing to do everything and more to alleviate Referee criticisms and improve the paper

Point out if Editors or Referees made any factual errors

Provide specific evidence if you feel a Referee is biased

Appealing a Negative Decision

What doesn't help?

Inflammatory language

Calling the Editors or Referees idiots

Bribes (rare) or threats (not so rare)

Appealing a Negative Decision

What doesn't help?

"Referees are unfair"

Celebrity endorsements: "My favorite Nobel Laureate said my paper was great!"

Cosmetic rewriting of the paper

Guesses at Referee identities followed by personal attacks

Statements about the authors' reputation

"You published an even worse paper"

Hitting reply instead of forward

Manuscript preparation

Article title

- **No more than 15 words**
- **No excessive punctuation: i.e. no colons, *commas*, "etc."**
- **Informative, but not inflated relevance**
- **Indicate species studied (human versus animal model)**

Activated macrophages are essential in a murine model for T cell–mediated chronic psoriasis

Versus

Up-regulation of IL-7, stromal-derived factor-1a, thymus-expressed chemokine, and secondary lymphoid tissue chemokine gene expression in the stromal cells in response to depletion: implication for thymic "reconstitution"

Manuscript preparation

Cover letter

- **3-4 paragraphs**
  Much more and we question why you are arguing so vehemently
  Much less and we wonder if you really care
- **Should introduce the study and the authors**
- **Declare conflicts of interest**
- **Indicate that the findings are as yet unpublished**
- **Suggest referees and list exclusions**
- **Explain why your paper is important and novel**
  but only in the total 3-4 paragraphs
- **PROOFREAD IT BEFORE SUBMITTING**
  -correct journal, date, grammar

The Abstract is Key!

Award for the most impenetrable abstract ever submitted

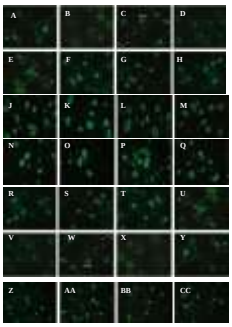
Aging impoverishes androgen availability in the human and animal via unknown hypothalamic, pituitary and/or testicular mechanism(s). Testosterone (Te) depletion in turn reduces skeletal calcium content, muscle mass, sexual vigor and well being. Parsing the primary cause(s) remains difficult, because analysis of any single locus within the brain-pituitary-testis (GnRH-LH-Te) ensemble perforce includes unknown inputs by interlinked sites. A dual stratagem was developed to address this generic impasse; viz., construction of a biomathematical formalism to quantify unobserved signal exchange from incomplete observations; and graded experimental silencing of one locus of coupled control (GnRH action), while simultaneously monitoring the output of both other loci (LH and Te). Validation was by direct hypothalamo-pituitary sampling in the horse and sheep. Analyses in 24 men ages 20-72 yr unveiled that aging disrupts by ≥ 45% all 3 primary signaling pathways linking the hypothalamus, pituitary gland and gonad (GnRH -> LH; LH -> Te; Te -> GnRH/LH). **Ensemble failure unifies an array of disparate earlier inferences about the basis of hypogonadism in the aging male. In addition, the combined analytical-experimental paradigm presented here should facilitate prosecution of currently impracticable investigations of other self-regulating physiological systems.**

Manuscript preparation

Figures

- **The reader should be able to understand your work solely by looking at the figures and legends**
- **Title your figures (in the legend) as you would a subheading in the text**
- **Don't overfill a figure with too many panels**
- **"Representative" is interpreted as best**
- **List *n* values in the legend**
- **Try to provide quantitation of histology or blots**
- **Make use of the supplementary data section**

Manuscript preparation



Figures

You do not need 28 panels in one figure.

Use an appendix or supplement

Manuscript preparation

Figures/ Data manipulation

Pasting lanes from other blots
Multiple use of the same lane
Passing blots off as different proteins/mRNAs in different figures

Manuscript preparation

Figures/ Data manipulation

A loading control is an irrelevant protein from the SAME lane run on the same gel at the same time

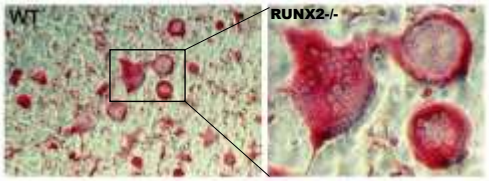
Also: you CANNOT mix bands from different exposures of the same film (unless you're explicit about it, and even then….)

Manuscript preparation

Figures/ Data manipulation

Passing off an inset of previously published figure as a new figure
Copyright infringement

Previously published **Submitted figure**



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We welcome your submissions and
promise to treat all papers
thoughtfully and as fairly as possible